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partly formed before Carboniferous time. Professor Shaler believes that east of the Appalachians there were developed during Carboniferous times a great series of erosion troughs which by sedimentation and subsidence became centers of quaquaversal orogenic movement, resulting in foldings with axes variously inclined to one another within the same trough. The truncated remains of the folds so produced are to be seen at various points along the Atlantic seaboard. That these erosion troughs were river valleys and estuaries is suggested by their lack of parallel or other definite arrangement such as is seen in the Appalachians, as well as by the character of the deposits they contain. The Narragansett basin is one of these ancient erosion troughs in which the folds were of the anticlinal and synclinal type. The present average structural depth of the basin is placed at 7000 feet, but it is assumed that this depth is due mainly to folding resulting from accumulation of deposits. The source of the bulk of the sediments of the basin was the immediately surrounding granitic, trappean, schistose and other rocks. There are also many quartzitic pebbles of Cambrian age in the conglomerates but the source of the similar pebbles of the drift is considered unsettled. In discussing the glacial history of the region Professor Shaler expresses the view that this district was one of extensive and long continued glaciation during the Carboniferous period and that the important features of the upper stratified rocks are due to glacial action.

In the economic section the soils, coals, and iron ores are discussed at considerable length. Recent subsidence in the immediate vicinity of the basin has caused flooding of old valleys. This and the thick covering of drift have rendered geological work difficult, and the delimitation of formations uncertain. The volume represents much detailed work accomplished in a region presenting more than ordinary difficulties. There are many well placed plates and figures to illustrate the text.

R. D. GEORGE.

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*On the Lower Silurian (Trenton) Fauna of Baffin Land.* By CHARLES SCHUCHERT. Proceedings of the U. S. National Museum. Vol. XXII, pp. 143-177, with plates XII to XIV.

At the request of the author, Mr. J. N. Carpender and others (who accompanied the Seventh Peary Arctic Expedition as far as Baffin Land in 1897,) made collections of fossils from Silliman's Fossil Mount at

the head of Frobisher Bay. The fossils are well preserved and many of them are now in the U. S. National Museum. The paper gives a brief summary of the geology of the region as gathered from reports by those who have either visited it or have examined collections from it. The Lower Silurian fossils so far collected are of Trenton and Utica age, and strata containing these faunas are widespread in eastern Arctic America. So far as known they rest upon the pre-Cambrian rocks and are overlain by beds of Niagara age. Of the 72 species known from the locality of Silliman's Fossil Mount 28 are restricted to it. Of the remaining 54 species, 41 are found in the Manitoba-Minnesota-Wisconsin region and 17 in the New York-Ottawa region. A comparison of the 54 species found elsewhere with those from definite stages in Minnesota shows that 10 are found in the Birds-eye (Lowville), 17 in the Black River, 38 in the Galena, and 11 in the Cincinnati.

The close resemblance of the Minnesota Galena to the Silliman's Fossil Mount formation may in large part explain the close identity of the faunas. In the summary, page 175, the author says: "The Baffin Land fauna had an early introduction of Upper Silurian genera in the corals *Halysites*, *Lyella* and *Plasmopora*. In Manitoba similar conditions occur in the presence of *Halysites*, *Favosites*, and *Diphyphyllum*. The Trenton fauna of Baffin Land shows that corals, brachiopods, gastropods, and trilobites have wide distribution and are therefore less sensitive to differing habitats apt to occur in widely separated regions. On the other hand the cephalopods and particularly the pelecypods, indicate a shorter geographical range. The almost complete absence of Bryozoa in the Baffin Land Trenton contrasts strongly with the great development of these animals in Minnesota and elsewhere in the United States."

The paper is a valuable addition to our knowledge of the Ordovician faunas of eastern Arctic America.

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*The Freshwater Tertiary Formations of the Rocky Mountain Region.*

By W. M. DAVIS. Proceedings of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, Vol. XXXV, No. 17, March, 1900.

In this very timely paper Professor Davis gives voice to a growing change of opinion regarding the specific mode of origin of the most